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## R E P O R T.

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THE last Annual Report contained a description of the Catalogue of the Dante collections in the Harvard College and Boston Public Libraries, with additional titles from two private collections, which is being prepared by Mr. Lane under Mr. Winsor's direction. By the courtesy of the publishers of the Bulletin of Harvard University, the members of the Society received a reprint from the Bulletin of the first part of this Catalogue. An inspection of this portion, which includes manuscripts, editions, and translations of the *Divina Commedia*, shows that there is accessible to the American student of Dante all the material strictly essential to that critical study of the text which must be the foundation of a thorough knowledge of the poem. During the past year, Mr. Lane has completed the list of editions and translations of the minor works of the poet, (published in the October number of the Bulletin,) and has begun the alphabetical list of works on Dante.

On the completion of Mr. Lane's work, the separate parts in which it appears will be issued together, and a copy will be sent to each member of the Society. For purposes of consultation, the collection of the Society is open to all students of Dante on application to the Secretary. Of recent accessions to the Library Mr. Lane writes:—

“Our Dante collection now numbers 864 volumes, against 701 last year, showing the addition of 163 volumes. About 130 of these were the gift of Professor Norton last summer.

“Among the more notable of the accessions may be mentioned the extremely rare and entirely perfect copy of Villegas's Spanish translation of the *Divina Commedia*, 1515, (the Boston Public Library copy is described in our printed list as No. 241,) the gift of Professor James Russell Lowell, who bought it at the recent Hamilton sale in London; the continuation of the reproductions of Botticelli's interesting illustrations of Dante, from the original drawings in the royal collection in Berlin; the completion of De Marzo's great edition of Dante, with its prose version and fourfold moral, æsthetic, historical, and philological comment; and Reid's 'Works of the Italian Engravers of the Fifteenth Century,' also the gift of Mr. Lowell, which contains reproductions of the engravings in the rare Florentine edition of Dante of 1481. Copies of this edition with all the plates (nineteen) are of the greatest rarity. Mr. Norton's contains only two. (This edition is No. 5 in the printed list.) The designs are by Botticelli, and interesting in connection with the reproductions of the full set of his original drawings now being published in Berlin.”

The Concordance of the *Divina Commedia*, upon which Professor Fay has been engaged for several years, is progressing satisfactorily, and will probably be completed, as originally proposed, at the close of the present year. The value and importance of such a book has been commented upon in previous Reports. It will be the duty of the Council to consider in what way the Society can aid and participate in the publication of this work.

No work of importance has been done in the past year by American students of Dante that has come to the notice of the Council. It is to be hoped that the effort which has been made to encourage systematic and thorough work on Dantesque subjects in students of Harvard University may find a counterpart in other institutions of learning. The following extract from the University Catalogue is self-explanatory:—

“An annual prize of one hundred dollars is offered for three years by a member of the Dante Society for the best essay by a student in any department of the University, or by a graduate of not more than three years’ standing, on a subject drawn from the Life or Works of Dante.

“The first prize is offered for the year 1886–87. The subjects proposed for this year are as follows:—

“1. A translation into English of Dante’s Letters, with explanatory and historical comments.

“2. On the individual characteristics and comparative importance of the commentators of the fourteenth century on the Divine Comedy.

"3. Dante's obligations to the Schoolmen, especially to Thomas Aquinas.

"4. On those characteristics of Dante's style, whether of thought or language, which distinguish him from his contemporaries or immediate predecessors in Italy or France.

"Essays must be deposited with the Dean of the College Faculty on or before the first day of May, 1887.

"The title-page must, with an assumed name, state the standing of the writer, as graduate or undergraduate, and, if the latter, of what Class, and in what department of the University. A sealed letter must be sent in at the same time, under cover with the dissertation, containing the true name of the writer, and superscribed with his assumed name.

"The dissertations must be written upon letter paper, of good quality, of the quarto size, with a margin of not less than one inch at the top and bottom, and on each side, so that, if successful, they may be bound up without injury to the writing. The sheets on which the dissertation is written must be securely stitched together.

"The judges of the essays will be a committee of the Dante Society.

"In case the judges deem that no essay submitted to them deserves the full prize, they will be at liberty to award one or two prizes of fifty dollars each, or not to award any prize at all.

"The award will be announced at the beginning of the academic year 1887-88."

Inquiries are often made for an account in English of Dante's Life and Works. In the first Appendix will be found what is desired. In another Appendix

will be found a paper by a member of the Society on an interesting subject.

The Council has learned with pleasure of the formation in several Western cities of large classes for the study of Dante. The course and scheme of work appears to have been arranged with much care and judgment, and should produce excellent results. The Society is interested in the success of these classes, and desirous of promoting it in any way that shall suggest itself.

It has always been the aim of the Society to include in its membership, not only students of Dante, but also any who were in sympathy with the objects and purposes for which the Society was organized. To prevent any misconception in this respect, the wording of the second section of the By-Laws has been slightly changed from its original form.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, *President*,  
CHARLES ELIOT NORTON, *Vice-President*,  
JUSTIN WINSOR,  
LOUIS DYER,  
PHILIP COOMBS KNAPP, JR.,  
JOHN WOODBURY, *Secretary*,

*Council of the Dante Society.*

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,  
MAY 18, 1886.